



The
Epitome
/i'pitəmi/

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

2024
Volume 1
Issue 3



COPYRIGHT PAGE

Copyright© 2023 by Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah Branch.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission from the Rector, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah Branch, 08400 Merbok, Kedah, Malaysia.

The views, opinions, and technical recommendations expressed by the contributors are entirely their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, the Faculty or the University.

eISSN 3009 – 0075

Published by:
UiTM Cawangan Kedah,
Pn. Razanawati Nordin, Chief Editor,
UiTM Cawangan Kedah, Kampus Sg. Petani, 08400 Merbok, Kedah
Email address: razanawati@uitm.edu.my
Contact No: 044562421

Copy Editor: Ms. Rafidah Binti Amat & Ms. Nor Asni Syahriza Abu Hassan
Graphic Designer: Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin



APB KEDAH : THE EPITOME

editorial board

Advisor



Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman

Chief Editors



Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor



Puan Razanawati Nordin



Puan Sharifah Syakila Syed Shahrudin

Managing Editors & Promotion

Editors & Content Reviewers



Puan Hajah Sharina Saad



Puan Phaveena Primsuwan



Puan Samsiah Bidin



Dr. Berlian Nur Morat



Puan Syazliyati Ibrahim



Ustaz Mohd Zulkhairi Abd Hamid



Puan Noor 'Izzati Ahmad Shafiai



Cik Lee Chai Cuen



Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin

Secretaries



Puan Nor Asni Syahriza Abu Hasan



Puan Mas Aida Abd Rahim

Technical



Puan Rafidah Amat



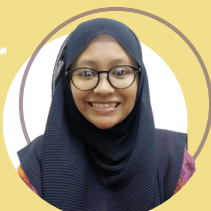
Puan Khairul Wanis Ahmad

Graphic Designer



Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin

Copy Editor



Puan Rafidah Amat



Puan Nor Asni Syahriza Abu Hasan



Miss Nurfarisyah Hafiz

Assistant Copy Editor



synopsis

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the third edition of its e-magazine, The Epitome. This publication exemplifies our steady dedication to fostering creativity in language and literature.

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform where writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers can come together to exchange their ideas, discoveries, expertise, and narratives. Our special focus revolves around an array of creative writing genres, encompassing Playwriting, Short stories, Songs, Speeches, Memoirs, Literary Journalism, Humour writing, Lyric essays, Innovative essays, and Personal essays, with a goal to embrace diverse linguistic expressions, with content available in four languages: English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic.

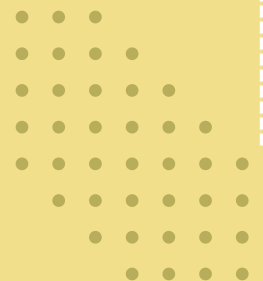




table of **contents:**

PREFACE

EDITOR'S NOTE

A Journey of Growth and Gratitude: My Internship Journey by Nurfarisya Hafiz	1
Another Chance by Tina Stephen Enggong & Ranee Atlas	3
As I Stood by Palestine by Sharina Saad	4
Bound & Broken (Absurd Theater Playwriting) by Iadid Ashrai & Mag Malik	6
Brian Lai, Our Eldest Child by Ting Su Ung	10
Embracing The Richness of Malaysian Culture: Four Standout Aspects (In My Opinion) by Piermauro Catarinella	12
From Zero to London: My Childhood Journey by Nurul Afiqah Binti Ahmad	14
In The Embrace of Memory: The Journey of Loss, Love and Legacy by Mashita Binti Abdul Jabar	15
In The Lecture Hall by Nor Azyyati Md Saad	16



Bound & Broken (Absurd Theater Playwriting)

Mohamad Iadid Ashrai bin Hassannudin

Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan,
Kampus Kuala Pilah

Written by: Iadid Ashrai & Mag Malik
Absurdist Play

Inspired by: 'Waiting for Godot' by Samuel Beckett

ACT I: ASSUMPTION

MANSON inspects some items on a table. (WHISK, TOASTER, BALLOON, POTATO CHIPS, A LEAFLET). DAHMER enters. DAHMER looks at Manson for a few seconds in awkward silence.

DAHMER: Well, this reminds me of a SpongeBob episode. Hey, are you waiting for them to evolve?

MANSON: (Without turning his head around) No.

DAHMER: Then what?

MANSON: Nothing. Why do you care?

DAHMER: I don't. Unless you say, "Hey, what do you think would be a completely original way to, how do I say this, extinguish thyself from the cruelties of the universe?"

MANSON: An interesting, but idiotic question.

DAHMER: Why is that?

MANSON: That question came from initial thoughts or considerations of the said activity.

DAHMER: And?

MANSON: And nothing. But yes, like I said, an interesting question. It's worth a discussion.

DAHMER: Stop being so morbid.

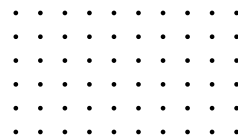
MANSON: Call it morbid if you want. It's judged or be judged, right?

DAHMER: I'm not judging you. I'm just worried.

MANSON: Worry about the starving kids in Mongolia.

DAHMER: You mean Africa.

MANSON: Kids in Mongolia can be starving too if their parents are too busy judging their friends based on a random question.



DAHMER: Barely a save. But a save, nonetheless. Touché.

MANSON: So, whisk, toaster, balloon, potato chips or-

DAHMER: A leaflet?

MANSON: Good observation skills.

DAHMER: Death by leaflet?

MANSON: Ssshh... tone it down on the D word. There are kids here.

(Makes subtle reference to the audience.)

DAHMER: Where?

MANSON: Never mind.

DAHMER: What would you do with a whisk? Beat an egg until your arms fall off and die?

MANSON: Not d-d-d-die. TERMINATED.

And no. I would cut these wires off and jam them into my eye sockets.

DAHMER: And blind yourself? And die slowly a few years later due to old age?

MANSON: Good point. See, this is why we're buddies.

DAHMER: I'm not glad. By the way, if you're going in that direction, might as well use an ice pick. Cleaner, and a much deeper thrust.

MANSON: You see, the point here is to be original.

DAHMER: And the balloon?

MANSON: (Pause) Suffocation.

DAHMER: Hardly original.

MANSON: You're hardly helping.

DAHMER: Deflate it. (Draws pin from the pocket and pops the balloon) And then stick this down your throat.

MANSON: I still can breathe through my nose.

DAHMER: Get another one and stick it in your nose. I still don't get the leaflet.

Papercutting yourself to termination?

MANSON: Well. By the way, I was thinking of using the toaster for electrocution in a bathtub.

DAHMER: People have done that a thousand times. Or more. And also, we don't have a bathtub. Nobody we know has a bathtub.

MANSON: I could go to a hotel.

DAHMER: How about burning yourself in the middle of the concert of your favourite band?

MANSON: No. Too much publicity. And it would wreck the concert for the others. And my favourite band would be scarred for life. It would be a burden to others.

DAHMER: Your hotel room idea is a burden to others too.

MANSON: And the potato chips-

DAHMER: Tell me about the leaflet.

MANSON: Well. There's nothing to talk about in the leaflet.

DAHMER: You mean it's not one of your future weapons? It's a leaflet about ovens. What? Put your head in the oven and close the doors, the windows, the curtains, and turn the gas on.

MANSON: Who do you think I am? Sylvia Plath? It's not a weapon.

DAHMER: What do you mean it's not a weapon? You have everything laid out here. It has to be a weapon.

MANSON: That's your assumption.

DAHMER: You are talking about ways to commit suic-

MANSON: That's an assumption too.

DAHMER: No, it's not. You asked me the ridiculous question in the first place.

MANSON: Is that so? I was the first one to bring it up.

DAHMER: YES. You and your morbid thoughts.

MANSON: You've mistaken me for somebody else.

DAHMER: Who might that be?

MANSON: You.

DAHMER: Me?

MANSON: Yes, you.

DAHMER: Ah, preposterous.

MANSON: Were you not the first person to mention suicide in this room?

DAHMER: No. Of course not.

MANSON: But you were thinking about it.

DAHMER: Well. I'm not saying I didn't.

MANSON: You assume that I was going to...t-t-terminate myself from the cruelties of the universe.

DAHMER: Nonsense. I didn't say such a thing about it.

MANSON: Oh yeah, right, sure. You didn't say that at all. It's just you and your morbid thoughts. Assuming. You know what they say about making assumptions.

DAHMER: What? Oh yeah... well of course. It's a morbid thought adapting yesterday's situation to become today's routine. I guess I don't have to explain it more to...

MANSON: Because you have outlived that dumbness into you. Assuming and assumptions. Well, I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.

ACT II: SPECULATION

DAHMER is still trying to understand the moment. Reflectively, he's trying to clean and neat himself at the corner. MANSON continues looking for something in the garbage. MANSON found NEWSPAPER, CAN, UMBRELLA, and OLD NOVEL. Then, MANSON walks towards DAHMER who is sitting in the corner.

DAHMER: I don't understand. Why are you still picking this useless garbage?

MANSON: Hmm. I suppose you could say we don't see things on the same page. And it's not useless. It's... quintessential.

DAHMER: I see. Well, as you say, we are not even on the same page to begin with. But why are these things quintessential?

MANSON: Don't you see it? These are the things that prevent us from seeing what the actual quintessence is.

DAHMER: NEWSPAPER, CAN, UMBRELLA, and...

MANSON: William Golding's Lord of the Flies. Classic! Wait, why do you care again?

DAHMER: I don't, and I'll try to stay away from you if I can.

MANSON: Running away from the norm? It's hard.

DAHMER: Factual yet unreliable. It depends on how good you are to run away from the knowing within knowing.

MANSON: Good theory. But would that theory support the fact of your knowing within knowing?

DAHMER: One idea seed in mind would grow a tree. I guess that newspaper helps you to grow a tree.

MANSON: Seed or seeds? It makes the differences between acknowledgement and denial.

DAHMER: And how is that?

MANSON: Humans like you would easily believe what you see and read. Putting it into perspective would not help you much to know within knowing.

DAHMER: Undisputable fact. You speculate something here.

MANSON: No, I'm not. You speculate something here too.

DAHMER: What? Do you think I am Jordan Belfort? Manipulate theory to make money from corruption and greed. I had enough of this.

MANSON: Well, I'm not saying you're manipulating theories. I'm saying...How should we choose to believe a good theory of missing aeroplanes if it's still being investigated?

DAHMER: Why do you have to question about that? There is unprecedented acknowledgement about it.

MANSON: That's biased. These theories without fact have distracted you from evolving around the truth.

DAHMER: Then you should just rip that newspaper off because you would say..."Hey, the journalists could sound smart because they did not have the responsibilities of decision."

MANSON: Wait, don't you see it? I'll offer you my fork if you still can't see it.

DAHMER: To begin with, again, we're not on the same page as you think.

MANSON: Then, it would never end.

DAHMER: What's the can for?

MANSON: Good observation skills, yet I might just throw it to you.

DAHMER: To kill me after failing to kill yourself. Well, that's a good move.

MANSON: And tell others that I have the intention to kill you. Bravo! Explaining to you is not the best option.

DAHMER: What? My theory is not enough for you to acknowledge it. Denying the theory would be against my stand.

MANSON: I might give the brain to the people who need it and put the can into yours.

DAHMER: Pfft...I still don't understand your ideas to speculate to others.

MANSON: *pretending not to hear* What did you say? Never mind. I prefer to indulge myself in this classic.

DAHMER: To fill in the gaps in your brain?

MANSON: Yeah, wouldn't mind helping fill in for others. To see why humans single out others to degrade them for their benefit.

DAHMER: You might just read on your own. I might speculate to others about your plan to kill me.

MANSON: What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?

DAHMER: Of course, we are human and probably going into savages.

MANSON: Losing yourself in a maze of thoughts that were rendered vague by lack of seeds. You'll never consider seeing what exactly humans or animals or savages are. Or is it just the same for you?

ACT III: JUDGEMENT

DAHMER: I don't understand rich people.

MANSON: And why is that?

DAHMER: Just look at them; Walking around with fancy gadgets and whatnot, wasting time and money doing ridiculous things. And not even one of them looks in our direction to help the poor. They're hypocrites. All of them.

MANSON: But you were one of them.

DAHMER: I beg your pardon.

MANSON: Were you not?

DAHMER: Of course not!

MANSON: Is that so? Judging by the way you dress; I'd say you are. Well, were.

DAHMER: Stop being so judgemental! I am not one of them!

MANSON: Not anymore.

DAHMER: What are you trying to prove? That the rich can go broke? Is that it? Are you implying that's what happened to me?

MANSON: Did I say anything like that? I don't think I did.

DAHMER: But you were implying it!

MANSON: Oh, hush. I did nothing of such sort.

DAHMER: Whatever. It doesn't even matter anyway.

MANSON: Oh, cheer up. Look, you got to look it from a different perspective. Not all people are bad guys.

DAHMER: Oh really? Then please do explain why we're suffering out here while they lot have cosy beds and drink warm coffee every morning. Do tell.

MANSON: I never said I was suffering.

DAHMER: You know what? Never mind. I tried seeing things from your perspective, but you know nothing. It always must be me who sees things the right way.

MANSON: Fascinating! Do tell.

DAHMER: These rich people have no idea what I've been through. Sure, let them enjoy the life they have now, freely spending everything they could ever want. Just wait till they bite more than they can chew.

MANSON: I sense semantics.

DAHMER: Oh, shut up.

MANSON: Have you ever wondered how and why you became like this?

DAHMER: What do you think I have this book for, genius? Of course, I do! And I know why. I just made a few stupid mistakes.

MANSON: Well, ask yourself this; how important is education?

DAHMER: Of course, it is important! What kind of stupid question is that? I mean how else would we get jobs and gain money?

MANSON: Point taken. Did you know that some people are smart but still live poorly?

DAHMER: What are you trying to say? That smart people aren't always rich? I bet those people never learned to take risks, unlike I did.

MANSON: And look where it got you now.

DAHMER: Don't you dare start-

MANSON: The point is that not everyone can be as successful as those we see out there. It's not that they didn't take any risks, but rather the fact that they tried everything even with education and yet still couldn't manage to break free of this stratification from happening. Not everyone is born rich. But remember, not everyone is fated to die poor either. And those that do, how sure are you that they're poor? The way they dress. How do they speak? You never know-

DAHMER: What are you? Mahatma Ghandi? I know that al-

MANSON: Well, I'm sure you do. Like I said, you never know what the person you've been conversing with has been through and how they were born into this world.

The End.



The End.



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

The
Epitome
/i'pitəmi/

eISSN 3009-0075



9 773009 007004